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Minutes of the Finance Committee

Saturday, March 31, 2007

Public Meeting

Finance Committee Conference Room

8:30 A.M.

Public Meeting

The public meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order at 8:31 A.M.

Finance Committee

Members present:

Doris Metivier, Dave Ross, Gary Murray, Don Davison, Bill Hanley,
Dharmesh Shah (8:45 A.M.)

Gary Murray and Dharmesh Shah @1:58 P.M.

Members absent:

Fred Churchill

Citizens present: See sign in sheet

The Town Administrator was present

Any outstanding or relevant issues

4-Apr-07

The following members cannot attend this meeting:

Dave Ross, Dharmesh Shah, Gary Murray

Review of the departmental and capital budgets proposed for FY2008

Department FinCom member

School Department Bill Hanley

Dr. Connors and representative from School Committee and public meeting

Power point presentation and staffing information in paper form Dr. Connors gave a verbal presentati

Kindergarten number add 10 throughout the year

8th to 9th number is not as concrete due to private schools, etc.

Major increase is due to support staff. 23.3 was requested

It was reduced to 9.5 support staff and is in the budget.

Need for a reading specialist for younger grades

Foreign Language Teacher @ HS - Chinese language

Art and Music

Physical Education

Computer instruction

School Psychologists

In August and in Jan/Feb. Additional funds are needed as degrees are obtained- not a retro salary adjus
shortcoming in grant funding there is a line item for shortfalls Title I funds is based on poverty level 1.5

2 part time teachers are likely needed Portions of some salaries are dependent on Title 1 funds.

Per pupil expenditure

Civil Rights Grafton is claimed to be discriminating against Special Ed. Students

Insurance is not covering the ongoing lawyers fees.

Page 10 of the power point presentation

Teachers salaries entry level

Teachers salaries on page 19 is 1/4 of the pay scale level based on the market.

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Staffing information 431 vs. 356 (Check figures and then check figures with the Town Acct)

High school-fee for student parking?

Substitutes increase in funds due to the increase in need.

Funds Returned to tow 7,917.00 FY06

there is a margin in the budget that is managed in a prudent fiscal manner.

Funds available will be returned

9.1% higher 7100 to 7500 with a lower % increase..

Primary level reading - needs improvement should be early on.

Math levels improvement program has been in place for 2 years.

Circuit Breaker current 200,000 left in account approximate

17 students in out of district placements and these funds are primarily used for this purpose.

Chapter 70's funding

3/21/07 request to receive \$317,313.00 25% of new monies to the town

Appropriate point of education.

6-12 positions of retirement every year creating a vacancy.

Circuit breaker funds extraordinary relief- Grafton is not eligible for FY08 based on FY07 figures

\$300,000 to capital budget projects.

\$1.2 million increase for FY08 it is difficult to handle the increase for FY09

Teacher retirement benefits

healthcare costs @ 50% benefit

Debt expenditure for Blackstone Valley

\$546,330.00 will need to be reduced. Dr. Connors feels that the funds can be found within the Town.

Recreation

Betty Wright was present with Board

Printing brochures minimumally and will be posted on the website

Salary cut 35 hours to 30 hours

Silver Lake

Bob Foley

CPA will provide for the barrier(mat) to keep the weeds down (conservation)

Nelson Park and Library

Reviewed with the Town Administrator

Legal

FY08 is a flat budget

Overbudget for FY07

Bob Foley

Town Counsel 1st and 3rd Thursdays visiting with the Dept.s at no cost to the Town

2 contracts coming up to be negotiated.

Unclassified

Ambulance is off of the contract

Hydrant acceptance and upkeep

Memorial Day

Historical level funded

Hassanamesseit level Advanced life service is now being offered. Regional Delivery based on timing

Digging will begin in June

Workers Compensation

Regionalized programs can prove to be more cost effective

No Assistant Town Administrator

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Fire Department

Mickey Gauthier, Cheryl Barker, Steve Charest

Signed Purchase and Sale agreement

Planning and Conversation are okay with the project

Cumberland Farm has reached an agreement. Dave Ross

Doors will face 140

Move in May or June 2008

2 items to discuss with Town Administrator:

Custodial position: part time

Redesign the pay scale to discuss other call station comparisons and discuss w TA

Capital Projects

new truck to be housed at North Grafton the old one will be sold.

Warrant articles: pay rate is higher than the Department head

New vehicle will need to be fitted with radios

Current Fire Department: 78 firefighters and the full force is 82

Blackstone Valley Voc Tech School

Rich Brennan and Kurtis Johnson are present to discuss the FY08 budget

Anthony Yitts, Grafton's Blackstone representative is present

Increased vocational staff 8% increase in overall budget

\$11,090 per student is Grafton's share for F FinCom

School capacity is 1,150.

2 buses and energy costs provide for SPED costs

increase in students' enrollment means an increase in technology

State mandates testing to access technology programs

Rich Brennan and Kurtis Johnson will attend Town Meeting.

Blackstone Valley Town meeting warrant article vs. operating budget

In operating: will show a higher expenditure

Rich Brennan will find out which town's use operating budget vs. warrant article.

Cable Oversight Committee

Bob Hassinger is present to review the budget

3 year cycle under the current law will begin in September 2007.

Negotiations with Verizon will begin next month.

Annual meeting with the Board of Selectmen will be April 03, 2007.

Adjournment:

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee close its public meeting.

Seconded: Bob Foley. All in favor. Motion carries.

The public meeting of the Finance Committee adjourned at 3:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Fiacco